

AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 43, No. 47

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Friday, November 26, 2004



Happy Thanksgiving Team Charleston!

Team Charleston children, parents and child care providers share a Thanksgiving meal Friday at the Child Development Center here.

Courtesy photo
They feasted on traditional foods for their meal, including turkey, stuffing and vegetables. For information on base agencies' hours of operation during this holiday weekend, see Page 5.

FROM THE TOP

Thanksgiving greetings
from SECAF, CSAF

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EXERCISE

CAFB practices for
potential attacks

Page 7

MISSION POSSIBLE

Charleston departures
Cargo moved (tons)

14,488
65,918

Personnel deployed
Reservists activated
(Jan. 1 to Nov. 22, 2004)

699
683

Team Charleston: One family, one mission, one fight!

Commander's Comments

Col. Susan Desjardins
437 AW Commander

Giving thanks

It almost goes without saying that, as citizens of the United States, and members of the world's preeminent Air Force, we have much to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving week. We have the blessings of liberty and the love of family and friends that make our daily lives so meaningful and enriching.

We have plenty to be thankful for these days and I cannot think of a better time to express my gratitude to all of you for the things you do everyday! To our commanders, and chiefs, our First Sergeants and frontline supervisors, I thank you for the responsibility you are bearing and the care and concern you have for our people and our mission. To our families and friends, I thank you for your support and strength. We could not keep the pace we keep without your encouragement and thoughtfulness.

We are a mighty Air Force, and the 437th Airlift Wing and its tenants are a mighty Wing because of your dedication, resolve and commitment to excellence.

I want to make one more observation as we mark this historic holiday.

During a recent TDY, I was fortunate to attend an Executive Leadership Course where I met and studied with civilians from the United States and many other nations. I was the only military member in attendance. The formal coursework covered many useful topics, but it was the less formal interactions among us that reinforced to me just how special all of you are who wear an American military uniform, active duty, Reserves and National Guard, or serve in our Air Force as civilians. No other institution provides us the opportunity on a daily basis to do so much good for our fellow Americans. No other institution binds us together by bonds so tight that they enable us to go into harm's way and risk all quietly and with an unshakeable determination to fight for our brothers and sisters in uniform, for our families, and for our nation.

Our Air Force family is truly unique because of this, and we can be thankful for all that you do every day to make it so.



Wingman Day is more than a one-day event

When our nation calls, we respond ... without question. It is our core values of integrity, service and excellence that tie us together during these difficult times. They inspire us to stand tall in the face of adversity and challenges.

But the adversity and challenges take a toll. This toll manifests itself in many forms of stress due to increased deployments and family separation, longer hours supporting higher operations tempo, health and safety concerns.

We are now faced with an internal enemy. This enemy is threatening our most precious resource – our Airmen. The increases in substance abuse, financial and legal difficulties, family maltreatment, unsafe practices and suicides are eroding our Air Force family.

Earlier this week, we celebrated "Wingman Day" as a day dedicated to using our available resources to protect our greatest resource – you! During flight, a wingman's job is to be there, to watch out for lead, and to take care of lead. We need to remember Wingman Day is more than a one-day event, and we need to resolve to be good wingmen every day. Airmen taking care of Airmen is our most important task. The reason is clear — the Air Force cannot accomplish its mission for our country without our Airmen.

I would like to thank many, many people who helped plan and execute a picture perfect first Wingman Day. In particular I would like to thank **Lt.Col. Dan Flynn and his team** for pulling together all the base agencies, resources, plans and agenda to include the Commander's Run Wingman Day Commemorative towel (huge hit)! Thanks to the **Honor Guard** and **437th Communications Squadron** for a well-attended and received retreat ceremony, **Chaplain Cassandra Thomas and her staff** for a very moving spiritual wellness service, **Capt. Gina Jackson and her staff** in public affairs for spreading the word, and the **Company Grade Officer's Council** for hosting a burger burn for E-1s through E-4s. Thanks to all our commanders for marking Wingman Day with special events and get-togethers.

Stellar achievements by the 437 APS and 437 LRS

As many of you know, Charleston AFB was evaluated last week by a team from Headquarters Air Mobility Command during a Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program, or LSEP, visit. Both the **437th Aerial Port Squadron** and the **437th Logistics Readiness Squadron** earned an "Outstanding" rating. The 437th LRS also was recently awarded the Dadaelian Trophy as the best Logistics Readiness Squadron in AMC! Hearty congratulations to everyone in those units for a magnificent job well done!

Team Charleston — this was a remarkable week and Wingman Day was a remarkable start to developing a mindset that will carry us through the challenges ahead! One family, one mission, one fight!

Safety emphasis item

If you are leaving this Thanksgiving, think about the safety and security of your home. Try to make your house appear to be inhabited. Consider purchasing timers for lights in the house and asking a trustworthy neighbor to collect the papers from your yard. Also, don't leave answering machine messages telling callers that you are not in town. These and other Thanksgiving safety tips can be accessed from the Internet at <http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/ess/Thanksgiving%20Safety%20Tips.ppt#7>. **Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!**

Action line

Concerned contract workers cite need for crosswalk signs

The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me. First, give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581, or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

This forum is your opportunity to make Charleston AFB a better place

to live, work and play. To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.

Q: I work in the engine overhaul center for Pratt & Whitney, at Bldg. 543 on Graves Ave. Many of us have noticed an ongoing problem with people not stopping for the crosswalks on this street. We are concerned because we do not want to see anyone hurt. We feel if there were signs posted to

alert drivers of the crosswalks, they may pay more attention to them. This may be a problem on other back roads too. We would like to see signs posted for all crosswalks if possible.

Thanks on behalf of the Pratt team.

A: I share your concern over pedestrian safety at our intersections and crosswalks. Pedestrians always have the right of way when entering or

approaching our crosswalks. To improve visibility, our civil engineers are currently working to repaint crosswalks and stop bars with reflective paint. This coupled with additional signs and warning lights at busier intersections should ensure the Safety of all Team Charleston members.

**~ Col. Susan Desjardins
437th Airlift Wing commander**

Air Force leaders send Thanksgiving message

The following is a Thanksgiving message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"Each year, Americans set aside the special day of 'Thanksgiving' to gather with family and friends to count their blessings. At the first Thanksgiving festivals in the Virginia and Massachusetts colonies, the original settlers made praise and prayer for a bountiful harvest and hope for a promising future the centerpiece of their celebrations.

"This Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the blessings we have as Americans because our nation still holds the promise of bountiful lands and the right of freedom. We enjoy peace and prosperity like no other nation. The rest of the world admires our way of life because America's values are bedrock.

"For Airmen, we count an extra blessing around the Thanksgiving

table this year: the privilege of serving in the greatest air and space force in the world. By your professionalism, dedication and willingness to answer our country's call at a time of war, you stand as the shining example of strength, courage and patriotism for us all. Indeed, as Americans give thanks for their many blessings this Thanksgiving Day, they'll offer their gratitude to you for safeguarding our great nation.

"This Thanksgiving Day finds many of our Airmen deployed throughout the world in defense of America and to help give others a chance for freedom. Please remember them in your prayers and make sure their families are taken care of on this special holiday.

"We're very proud of you and your families for what you do to protect our cherished freedoms. Happy Thanksgiving!" **(AFPN)**

Sharp Wingmen: Airmen looking out for mission success, each other

By Maj. Benjamin Janes

437th AW Command Post commander

Looking back on the year, it's truly amazing what's been accomplished at Charleston AFB. Charleston has sustained the highest operations tempo and moved more cargo than ever before. Charleston has done this with a skeleton workforce due to thousands of Global War on Terrorism deployments. It's the dedication of the unsung Airmen who make this mission happen. Working in the command post, I see the impact of these Airmen on a daily basis.

I've seen an Airman look over the local training schedule and realize the setup didn't specify infrared lenses on a night-vision-goggle training flight. By raising the issue, the individual prevented a late takeoff and a loss of flight training.

I've seen an Airman come up with a plan to recover a C-17 formation that was broken off station at Pope AFB. Accelerating the return of these aircraft minimized the loss of training.

I've seen Airmen scanning the next day's flying schedule to identify a changed alert time and reset the aircrew in time to prevent a late takeoff on a close watch mission. There is an endless list of instances where a single Airman has asked a critical question that prevented a mission failure.

worth repeating

"These Airmen truly care about each other and the mission's success."



Maj. Benjamin Janes

437th Airlift Wing Command Post commander

I've seen Airmen passing maintenance advice to aircrews in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I've seen an Airman redesign and implement a plan to recover a plane broken off station at North Field. As long as the plane was at North Field, the airdrop landing zone was closed and a good airplane was not being used. The early recovery reopened the drop zone in time for scheduled special operations training.

Extending beyond the workplace, I've seen Airmen watch coworkers' children when a spouse goes into the hospital.

I've seen Airmen take the initiative and rework shift schedules to aide a coworker with a spouse in the hospital.

I've seen Airmen checking up on each other making sure everyone is OK.

I've seen Airmen pull each other aside when a

coworker seems troubled.

I've seen spouses volunteering to support unit activities, cooking food or working in booster club booths.

Each of these stories is amazing. In each case, instead of waiting for the mission to come to a screeching halt, an Airman stepped in and prevented a problem from happening. Instead of being satisfied with the existing plan, an Airman sought to develop and implement a better solution. In many cases, a preventive question like, "Is everything OK?" uncovers a festering personal or medical issue before the problem manifests itself through a separation or divorce, long-term illness, or worse. It's easy to overlook or forget these types of stories because each represents a problem that wasn't.

These Airmen take their service personally. These Airmen truly care about each other and the mission's success. To these Airmen, backing up Team Charleston members and looking out for each other comes naturally.

It's impossible to predict how much longer the current record operations tempo will continue. The pace is driven by events all over the world. But as long as we have unsung Airmen finding a way to move the mission better and take care of their coworkers, Charleston will remain ready to meet any operational challenge.

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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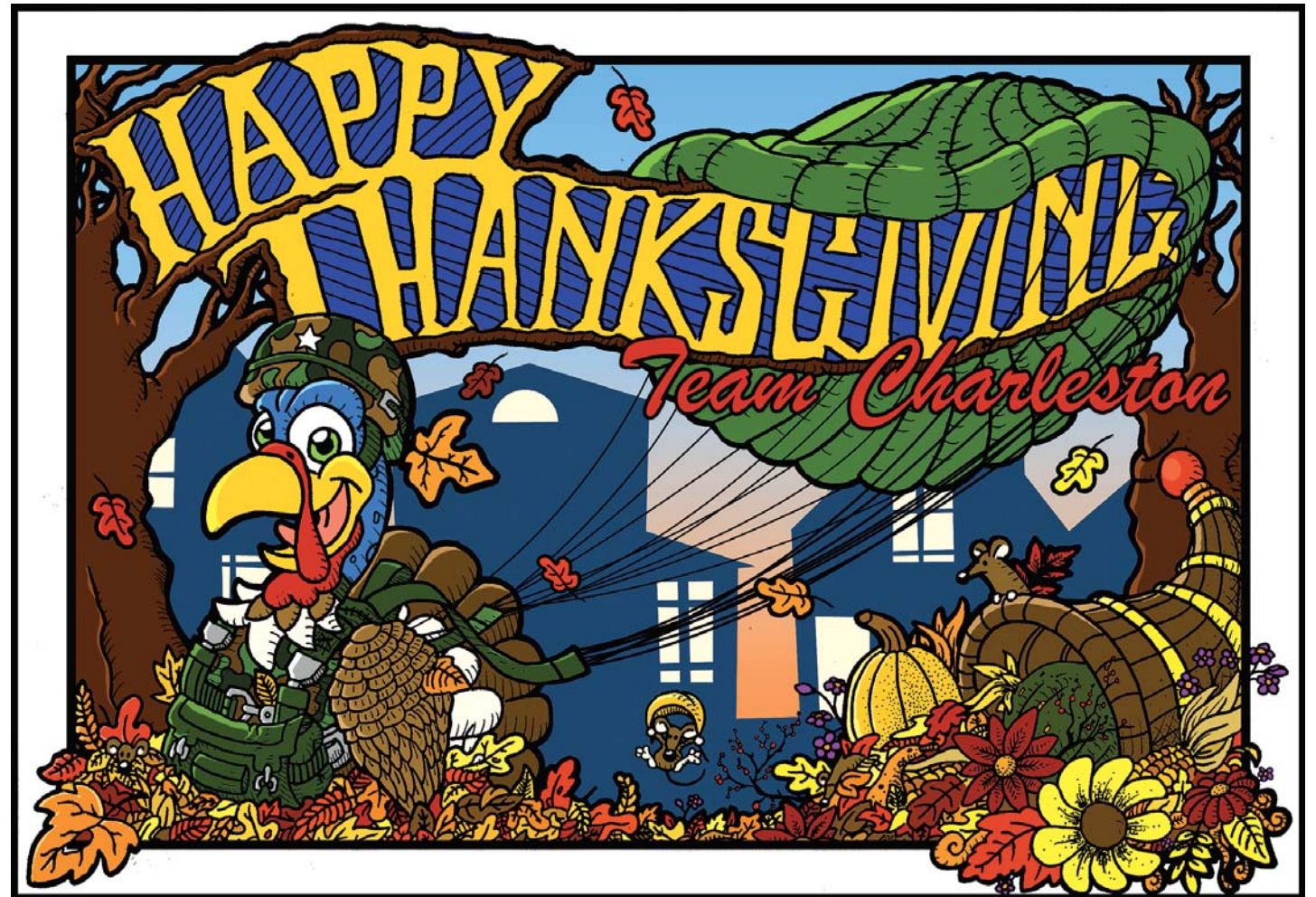
Thanksgiving holiday hours

Commissary: Closed Thursday, normal hours all other days.

Base exchange: Closed Thursday. Open Friday and Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The BX will have great specials and savings for after-Thanksgiving shopping.

Clinic: Closed Thursday and Friday. TRICARE Prime patients with an emergency are instructed to call 911. Those who need to reach the on-call provider for non-emergencies, call the Charleston AFB Clinic at 963-6880.

Fitness Center: Closed Thursday. Open Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Fitness and Sports Center will hold their 6th Annual "Turkey Burner" Friday. This is a three-hour workout from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., involving



Graphic by Sean Erbe

multiple fitness and aerobics classes.

Shoppette: Open Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Military Personnel Flight: Closed Thursday and Friday.

Child Development

Center: Closed Thursday and Friday.

Youth Programs Center: Closed Thursday and Friday.

Charleston chat

What makes Thanksgiving special for you?



"Thanking God for friends and family and the precious time we share together."

Brandi Jensen,
437th Services Squadron



"Spending time with my wife and long distance family members."

1st Lt. Race Steinfert,
16th Airlift Squadron



"Macy's parade and homemade macaroni and cheese."

Staff Sgt. Jessica Townsend,
15th Airlift Squadron



"Spending time with family you don't see often and being as stuffed as the turkey."

Senior Airman Sarah Wiser,
437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"Being with family being thankful for our country and the freedoms it affords all of us"

Tech. Sgt. Brandy Alexander,
437th Medical Group

Exercise tests base's responsiveness

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt.
Ben Gonzales
437 AW Public Affairs

The driver of a suspicious truck with an unusual trailer parked his vehicle across from the 437th and 315th Airlift Headquarters' buildings at 10 a.m. Nov. 18. Shortly after parking, he opened the trailer and poured water into some containers filled with toxic chemicals. The person left the area as purple smoke billowed into the Carolina-blue sky, causing several Airmen to collapse to the ground.

This was the scene Team Charleston had to respond to as the entire base was put to the test for a weapons of mass destruction/antiterrorism exercise.

As a safety cordon was established by security forces to prevent more people from being overcome by the chemicals in the air, firefighters rescued the injured. The Crisis Action Team and Disaster Control Group were recalled to provide top cover and direct forces through the incident. In addition, the 437th Medical Group sent health professionals to care for those affected by the chemicals. All offices across the base were affected and had to secure their areas and respond according to their established procedures.



Smoke billows from the "attack truck" during the exercise.

"Overall, the exercise went very well," said David Hunt, the chief of the Exercise Evaluation Team in the 437 Airlift Wing Plans office. "We will modify our procedures and processes to make sure we will be ready if something like this ever happens."

This major accident response exercise is just one of the wing's mandatory quarterly exercises designed to evaluate the base's ability to react, respond and recover from serious incidents.

"Exercises are good learning experiences," said Mr. Hunt. "Everyone has to lean forward to make exercises work."



Charleston AFB firefighters plot a safety cordon to ensure base members on the north side are not affected by chemicals from the "terrorist attack."

Basefirefighters escort a "victim" after being decontaminated.



Write Stuff: Reservist crafts pens for deployed troops

By Jennifer Turner
315th AW Public Affairs

The Freedom Pens Project, a national volunteer initiative to create and send hand-crafted pens to deployed troops, has attracted numerous volunteers from different military services.

This project was started in January 2004 by members of the SawMill Creek Woodworkers Forums, an Internet discussion community. So far, more than 20,000 pens have been

distributed to American troops currently serving in a combat zone.

Master Sgt. Robert Klopp, an activated Reservist with the 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, began crafting his own freedom pens in February.

"When the troops see the handcrafted pens, they know we are supporting what they're doing," Sergeant Klopp said. "They are in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq, and they need to know we are thinking of them."

Sergeant Klopp initially heard about

the effort from friends. He will soon reach his goal of creating 60 pens, which will then be shipped overseas by the Navy. Once overseas, the pens are distributed by military chaplains.

Other volunteers gather periodically at Turn-A-Thons to craft as many freedom pens as possible.

"I participated in a local Turn-A-Thon in March," Sergeant Klopp said. "I did 15 pens and a total of 56 pens were created that day."

Involved in woodworkingsince childhood, Sergeant Klopp said he has always enjoyed taking things apart and putting them back together again. Some of his pens are available online, but he also creates his own designs.

Using pen kits, Sergeant Klopp crafts pens from either wood scraps or Corian, a combination of natural materials and pure acrylic polymer. A typical pen kit includes a brass tube, clip, ink cartridge, tip and center ring.

"The most challenging aspect is making sure the wood doesn't break when you turn it," Sergeant Klopp said. "I like to showcase the knots in

the wood, but they sometimes blow out during the turning process, or the wood chips and cracks."

It takes about 30 to 45 minutes for Sergeant Klopp to make one wooden pen and about an hour to make one Corian pen. About 15 to 20 minutes is spent on turning and sanding the pen.

"I often don't make an entire pen in one sitting," Sergeant Klopp said. "I will do the cutting and gluing first and then later do the turning for several pens at once."

Along with the pens, volunteers often package their email addresses so those who receive the pens are able to write back if they want to. Sergeant Klopp said many troops have written volunteers to express their appreciation for the project and those behind the effort.

"The most rewarding part will be receiving my first email from a soldier who got one of my pens," Sergeant Klopp said.

For more information on the Freedom Pens Project, visit <http://www.freedompens.org>.

DUI/DWI Statistics

Last incident: 21 days

2004 total: 20

2003 total: 18

Members receiving a Driving Under the Influence must report to the wing commander the following duty day in full service dress accompanied by their supervisor, first sergeant and squadron commander.

AADD
AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

963-0437

Charleston AFB's Airmen Against Drunk Driving offers free, confidential rides home.

53 saves
this year

At your service:

Recreational specialists add spice to deployed life



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano

Senior Airman Emily Wick, 437th Services Squadron deployed to the 380th Expeditionary Services Squadron, assists a customer at the Oasis Community Activity Center at a forward-deployed location.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss

Airmen enjoy their off-duty time at one of three outdoor pools.

By Tech Sgt. Gino Mattorano
380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – It's been said that variety is the spice of life, and deployed Air Force members have an assortment of recreational activities to choose from, thanks to the efforts of the 380th Expeditionary Services Squadron's Fitness and Recreation Program.

The fitness and recreation program supports everything from the fitness and community activity centers to trips and tours to popular destinations in the area.

"We're responsible for providing morale, welfare and recreation activities for everyone deployed to the base," said Master Sgt. Chuck Sennett, 437th Services Squadron deployed to the 380 ESVS. "One of the lessons we learned from Operation Desert Storm was that even during war people need to have recreation and fitness activities to keep their spirits up and to keep them motivated. The people deployed to Iraq are getting bombed, but services troops are right there with them providing MWR opportunities."

The fitness program provides a variety of opportunities for deployed members to work on their fitness goals, or establish new goals if they didn't have any before.

"People often use their deployment as an opportunity to lose weight or get in better shape," said Staff Sgt. Candy Kanara, a 380th ESVS certified trainer from Charleston. "Many of them get here and don't know what they need to do to reach their fitness goals, so we have fitness trainers available to help them establish a fitness regimen and a nutritional plan to meet their goals."

Fitness trainers are certified by

the Cooper Institute of Aerobic Research, and can offer the latest in aerobic and weight training techniques.

The fitness and recreation flight also plans and coordinates all sports and recreational tournaments, including competitive sports like volleyball and basketball, or recreational activities like darts and bingo. Participants can win prizes ranging from a T-shirt to a video game console.

These prizes wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the resale operations program. The fitness and recreation program also includes resale of novelty and snack items sold in community activity centers, and beer sales in the CACs and at Ed's Bar.

"Revenue generated from resale operations is what allows us to provide the great prizes we give away during tournaments and recreational functions like bingo," Sergeant Sennett said.

For those people interested in an excursion off base, the trips and tours program provides a variety of trips to destinations in the local area, including shopping, beach resorts, water parks and outdoor adventures like deep-sea fishing.

"We work closely with our contacts downtown at the U.S. Embassy and in the community to arrange a variety of options for people," said Sergeant Sennett. "We also coordinate with the wing's force protection office for them to do an assessment of the destination and the activity to ensure we're taking people to an area that's safe."

For those who may deploy in the future, remember service professionals will ensure activities are available during your deployment regardless of your location.



Jumper: AEF has been successful

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper told House Armed Services Committee members that while reconstitution of air expeditionary forces is not moving as quickly as expected, the concept is battle-proven.

The Air Force's highest-ranking uniformed member testified before the House of Representatives Nov. 17 on the current state of the service.

"Last February, when I sat in front of this committee, we talked about the reconstitution of our air expeditionary forces and the fact we were in the midst of experimenting to see if the AEF concept actually worked," General Jumper told more than 30 legislators. "I can report our ability to pull eight of our 10 AEFs forward to engage in major combat operations, and then reset those, has been a success."

The general told committee members that while visiting deployed Airmen and troops of their sister services, he picked up on a common theme.

"I have been to Iraq and visited the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines over there," General Jumper said. "The singular message I bring back from them is 'let's not quit until we are done.' They believe that. They are dedicated to the mission they are engaged in over there and want to see it through." (AFPN)

Air Force working to fix pay issues

WASHINGTON — In testimony before Congress Nov. 18, the Air Force's finance director said there are issues with the service's pay system, but officials are tackling them.

Michael Montelongo, assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management, told the Senate Armed Ser-

vices Committee subcommittee on readiness and management support that Air Force officials are using an approach similar to the Army's to deal with pay issues involving reservists and guardsmen.

"(We are) bringing together the different (areas) involved in the total-pay process," Mr. Montelongo said. "We set up a (council) where we ... work on three areas: integrating the people involved in the process, making sure our processes are as integrated as possible and doing some of the near-term fixes in our personnel (and) pay systems so that we mitigate ... pay problems."

In the past, pay issues have risen from disconnects between at least two of those areas — those internal to the Air Force. Total money to an Airman, beyond base pay, is based on entitlements — meaning a pay is calculated by actions taken by both the finance and personnel Airmen.

Also key is a push to accelerate implementation of the Defense Integrated Military Human-Resource System, he said.

It is intended to replace and combine older personnel and pay computer systems in the DOD and in the component services. It will eventually replace DFAS's Defense Joint Military Pay System and the Air Force's Military Personnel Data System. (AFPN)

Air Force thrives on respect for diversity

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders said the service's capability to function as a team and accomplish its mission depends on respecting diversity.

Leaders reinforced that basic tenet in light of recent feedback from Air Force Academy cadets who said they felt pressured to participate in religious activities that were not in line with their own personal beliefs.

In surveys done in August,

more than 30 percent of non-Christian students said Christian cadets are given preferential treatment, while less than 10 percent of Christian students felt that way. Only a little more than half of non-Christian students reported they "have not felt pressure to be involved in religion" at the academy.

"Our policy is clear: tolerance of gender, racial, ethnic, and religious diversity is required in our Air Force," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. "There is absolutely no room for slurs or other offensive comments or behaviors."

"Our expectation for the entire Air Force is simple: we respect each other and take care of each other, period. Our capability to function as a team is dependent on appreciating and respecting our diversity. It is this mutual respect that strengthens our ability to protect America," the secretary said. (AFPN)

Space, missile career field seeking officers

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials are looking for Airmen to consider retraining into the

space and missile career field.

The career field needs an additional 30 to 40 people, officials said. Interested officers must contact their assignment team to determine if they can be released from their current career field. Applicants must also pass a Class III flying physical.

Information on the application process and the space and missile career field can be found online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/nr-ops/13S/SPAM%20Home.htm.

For more information, call (210) 565-2646 or DSN 665-2646. (AFPN)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Hymas

Mask check

Staff Sgt. Anthony Pope, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron mobility technician, performs a semi-annual gas mask inspection at the mobility processing center recently.

Around the base

Promotion ceremony: Come out and recognize our newest promotees at the monthly Charleston AFB promotion ceremony. We will celebrate all the enlisted promotions for the month of December from airman to chief master sergeant. The ceremony will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Charleston Club. Boss and Wingman Night will immediately follow, so stick around afterward for a little social time with your Wingman.

Angel breakfast: The base chapel hosts an Angel breakfast at 9 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Chapel Annex. There will be music, drama and more. RSVP by Tuesday at 963-2536.

Life skills class: The Life Skills Center hosts a depression management seminar from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday running three consecutive Thursdays at Bldg. 1000. This workshop is open to all beneficiaries of the military treatment facility including retirees and family members. For more information, contact the the Life Skills Center at 963-6852.

Golf Tournament: In honor of Lt. Col. Dave "Frenchy" Peaire's retirement, there will be a golf tournament at 9 a.m. Thursday at Wrenwoods Golf Course. There will be prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin and for the top three finishers. Sign up at the golf course pro shop or e-mail Maj. Mike Maguire, mike.maguire@charleston.af.mil or Tech. Sgt. Terry Owen, terry.owen@charleston.af.mil.

Toys for Tots: The Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight hosts their second annual Toys for Tots drive at 2 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Base Theater. The movie is "Shark Tale" and the price of admission is a new unwrapped toy. There will be a drawing for one male bicycle and one female bicycle. For more information, contact Senior Airman Tara Gibson at 963-4363 or Staff Sgt. Yolanda Morris at 963-4360.

Open season: Federal Employees Health Benefits open season continues through Dec. 13. Charleston AFB will have a FEHB open season fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Family Sup-

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Airman 1st Class Ashley Coleman 437th Operations Support Squadron

Airman 1st Class Ashley Coleman is an aviation resource manager for the 437th Operations Support Squadron.

Her primary duties include helping aircrew members in-process, maintaining flight record folders by inputting their flying time, and awarding them their ratings and badges.

"What I like best about my job is the people I work with," said Airman Coleman. "If they were not here, I wouldn't have as much fun."

The Erie, Pa., native joined the Air Force two years ago to see different parts of the world and to have a steady, well-paying job.

She recently deployed to Rhein-Main AB, Germany, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Airman Coleman is a member of the First Six Association, the Dining Hall Committee and volunteers with Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

She contributes to Team Charleston's mission by making sure that all of our aircrews are qualified to get the mission done.

"Airman Coleman is an outstanding aviation resource manager with superior knowledge and technical skills in her career field," said Staff Sgt. Telichia Brown, 437 OSS flight management assistant NCOIC. "Her enthusiasm, sense of pride and professionalism ... contribute directly to operational readiness and mission accomplishments of the 437 OSS and the Air Force."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Hymas

port Center. Representatives from various health plans will be available to answer questions. Federal Health Benefit Guides are now available at www.opm.gov/insure/health/. For more information, contact Tammie Jones at 963-4474.

Tae Kwon Do: The Fitness Center hosts a Tae Kwon Do class from 11 a.m. to noon Mondays through Thursdays. Class fee is \$40 monthly. For more information, contact the fitness center at 963-3347.

RAO position: The Retiree Activities Office is looking for a new director. Anyone interested in the position can call Col. Sam Cox at 963-3201.

Chapel: There will be no daily mass until Dec. 13. For more information, contact the base chapel at 963-2536.

Date: Saturday Dec. 4

Time: 9 a.m. to noon



Children's Deployment Line



Parents, bring your children to experience how to deploy. There will be give-aways and a tour of a C-17. Please RSVP by Tuesday by calling 963-4406/5630. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The line will be held at Bldg. 610. Come see your child in a chem suit.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Stacy Taylor at 963-5784 or Staff Sgt. Chris Neldner at 963-5630.

Command Performance

Thanksgiving thought:

On behalf of a grateful nation

By Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Coney
437 AMXS first sergeant

What does our nation's flag mean to you? While you ponder that, let me share a story with you.

As a brand new senior noncommissioned officer, I was tasked to perform an honor guard funeral detail where I was to hand our nation's flag to the next of kin. I had never given much thought to what the flag meant to me, and even though I did not volunteer for this detail, I was eager to do it; just to get it done. My job at this detail was to accept the flag from the detail who folded it, and pass it to the deceased Airman's mother. I had to give a memorized speech: "On behalf of a grateful nation and the President of the United States, please accept this flag for [insert number here] years of dedicated and faithful service by [insert name here] to our nation."

I had it memorized, and still do. I practiced it many times before the detail started so it would be a piece of cake.

We arrived at the grave site early, and the body was not there yet, but some of the family members were. The Airman's grandfather who served in Korea, and was retired for many years was there. He had lost touch with the military. When we pulled up, tears welled up in his eyes. They were not tears of sorrow for his grandson, but tears of joy and pride. He was proud his grandson "had done something with his life." The Airman's grandmother, who had never really understood the military, was full of questions about what it was like, and what her grandson's job entailed. I did not know her grandson, but I answered her questions based upon my knowledge of his military specialty.

Eventually the body arrived, and we moved into position. Bear in mind this is my first real detail, not a practice. The casket was moved from the vehicle, still draped in the flag.

The group detailed to fold the flag did so with military precision. I stood at attention watching in awe and amazed at how sharp and professional these young Airmen were.

It came time for me to accept the flag from the detail and pass it to his mother as "Taps" played simultaneously in the distance. The echo from the bugle's mellow tone still rings fresh in my ears. Just as "Taps" was completed, the rifle team fired their first volley of rounds. We practiced before, but for some reason the sound of the rounds going off startled me, and I jumped. Still at attention and standing in front of the mother with the flag folded in a neat triangle next to my heart ... I jumped.

It was all so real, I felt as if I was holding a piece of her son, something she would cherish for the rest of her life. That particular flag meant more to me than anyone could ever imagine.

I knelt down on one knee, and opened my mouth to speak, but no words came out. I looked at the mother, and she at me. The lump in my throat was so huge, I was sure it was visible from the outside. I cleared my throat, and tried again, and nothing. She looked at me, smiled, and said "thank you."

I stood, gave the flag a salute, did an about face, and departed the area. After rounding a corner, I stopped to reflect on what had just happened. As I dried the tears from my eyes, it was clear.

Performing an honor guard detail over 12 years ago made me realize the importance of our flag. For me, our flag is more than a piece of cloth we raise at the beginning of the day and lower at the sound of retreat. It is symbolic of our freedom and the lives sacrificed to maintain that freedom. In the beginning I asked the question, what does our nation's flag mean to you? The next time retreat sounds, ask yourself that question as you pause to pay respect as it is lowered for the day.



Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 963-2536

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services: Saturday - 4:15 p.m. Reconciliation; 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Mass; 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. Daily Mass is from 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Protestant Services: Sunday - 8 a.m. Inspirational Worship Service. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Bldg. 245. 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Children's Church. 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service. Wednesday - noon, Bible study

For information on other faith groups, call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to the start of the movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Today 7:30 p.m.

"Team America: World Police" - Animated

Team America follows an international police force dedicated to maintaining global stability. Learning that power hungry dictator Kim Jong Il is out to destroy the world, the team recruits Broadway Star Gary Johnston to go undercover. With the help of the Team, Gary manages to slip into an arms dealer's hideout to uncover the plan to destroy the world. **(R) 98 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Surviving Christmas" - Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini

Facing another Christmas alone, Drew decides to go back to his idyllic childhood home to spend the holidays with family. There is, however, one problem: the people there now are not Drew's family. Nevertheless, Drew has his mind set on an old-fashioned family Christmas, and the fact that the family in question, the Valcos, are complete strangers, isn't about to put a crimp in his plans. **(PG) 92 minutes**

Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

"I Heart Huckabees"

Dec. 4, 2 p.m.

"Shark Tale" - Toys for Tots donation movie

Defensive battle

LRS deals first loss to APS through a 7-0 shutout, gets chance at title

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Lewis
437 AW Public Affairs

APS suffered a shutout to the impenetrable defense of LRS in its first loss of the season, 7-0.

With the win, LRS gives itself a chance to take the regular season title from APS if the "Port Dawgs" suffer another loss and LRS wins its final game.

"With a win next week, we can still take the regular season title," said Stephen Holland, APS coach.

LRS opened the game with a 25-yard first down quarterback sneak by Bobby Degregorio. With momentum in their favor and in APS territory, Degregorio attempted a deep pass only to find it intercepted by the APS secondary. The interception foreshadowed the defensive battle that would become the first

half.

Unlike their opponent, APS opened its first play with a 20-yard pass from QB Rob Nolan to Brian Fisher for a first down. LRS answered sending the drive to a failed fourth down attempt by LRS.

After a failed possession on both sides, LRS attempted a quick score with a run, pass, run combination by Degregorio. All three plays gained 10 yards, which included a pass to Allen Russell for a first down.

With the drive still alive, Degregorio hit Tyrone Babers in the flat, who turned on the jets and didn't stop until he had 25 yards behind him. With 3 seconds left before halftime, LRS attempted a QB sneak that reached the 5-yard line before meeting an APS defender.

Both teams gained some field in their last possessions before halftime. However, neither found the end zone.

After sacking the APS quarterback for a 10-yard loss and forcing two incomplete passes, LRS opened the second half with a drive that landed them in the end zone.

Running for a combined 26 yards on their first three plays, LRS went deep on a pump and go that found Shaul Bracey 22 yards down field. Degregorio followed with a 10-yard toss to Dominick Ward and a 12-yard QB sneak for a touchdown. After an extra point by Chad Gibbs, LRS was up 7-0 with time run-

ning low.

The LRS defense responded with another stop, only to be pinned deep in their own territory by a 60-yard punt off the foot of Nolan.

APS answered with a defense blockade of their own and the ball in midfield. This would be APS's final chance, and they knew it.

APS opened with a 10-yard completion by Nolan to Sean Lambert and on the next play, drew LRS offsides for a first down. After two short runs, Nolan went deep to Fisher for a gain of 20 and another first down.

With APS in their territory and the two-minute warning passed, the LRS defense would answer with a blocked pass at the line and a sack by Daniel Middleton and Ryan Batenhorst for a 12-yard loss.

With one play left, Nolan completed a toss that would end with the receiver's flag in LRS cornerback Richard Smith's hands, stopping the APS final drive.

"It felt good to make the last stop," said Smith. "Our front line made it easy for the secondary to make some plays."

LRS sealed the win with a 23-yard run by Degregorio.

"We played together tonight," said Degregorio. "Our theory is, if they can't score, they can't win."

APS may have suffered their first loss, but with a win next week against MDG/CS, they can still be regular season champs. However, with a loss and an LRS win over CES, LRS can steal the regular season title.

Flag football standings

Place	Team	Won	Loss	Tie	Games
1	APS	8	1	0	9
2	SFS	6	2	0	8
3	LRS	7	2	0	9
4	MXS	5	3	0	8
5	NAVY Hos.	5	3	0	8
6	MDG/CS	4	5	0	9
7	CES	3	5	0	8
8	NWS	2	6	0	8
9	AMXS	2	6	0	8

Glover prevails in wild 7-way tiebreaker

By the Gridiron Guru
"Top-notch" pignskin prognosticator

Kenneth "Danny" Glover shared outstanding 14-2 records with "Curious" George Thompson, Blair English "101," "Lil" Kim Patterson, Oscar "O-Train" Thompson, Dalphus "Dante's Revenge" Burkett and yours truly, the self proclaimed king of all football, the amazing Gridiron Guru, but Glover emerged victorious in the Monday night points tie breaker.

Interesting news to report on this week's "Stink Out Loud" winner, the Dallas Clownboys. Seems a 10-year-old boy was in court involving a custody battle between his abusive parents. The judge cleared the courtroom, and asked the boy who he wanted to

live with. The boy replied he did not wish to live with his mother or father, but picked the Cowboys saying, "They never beat anybody."

I do have encouraging news though for the most loyal Cowboy fan, Barron "The Great One" Williams. They have lured Michael Irvin and William "The Fridge" Perry out of retirement. Now they have a refrigerator next to their Coke machine.

This week's "Cellar Dweller Duncap" award goes to "Mean" Gene Parris for his 7-9 effort. However, I will give him props for submitting the most entertaining entry each week! Now onto my Week 13 fearless-stone-cold-lead-pipe-lock-guaranteed winning predictions:

Gridiron Guru's Week 13 picks

Sunday, Dec. 5
Buffalo @ Miami
New England @ Cleveland
Arizona @ Detroit
Cincinnati @ Baltimore
Minnesota @ Chicago
Pittsburg @ Jacksonville
Kansas City @ Oakland
San Francisco @ St. Louis
Denver @ San Diego

Green Bay @ **Philadelphia**
 Atlanta @ **Tampa Bay**
 Carolina @ **New Orleans**
 Houston @ **N.Y. Jets**
 Tennessee @ **Indianapolis**
 N.Y. Giants @ **Washington**

Monday, Nov. 29
 Dallas @ **Seattle**

Monday night total points: _____
Guru's Monday night points: 40

The Gridiron Guru's picks are in bold and italics.
Swami is not affiliated with the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs.
Send your picks to swami@charleston.af.mil.
Include your name, phone number and any comments in the e-mail.
Picks must be submitted by 4 p.m. Friday